known, no remedial measures are found out. As a result, huge quantity of fish die everyday. Due to this, fisherman are on the verge of starvation. Even though the Kerala Government is giving free ration and financial assistance to the affected families, financials assistance from the Central Government to Kerala State has not yet been extended. This fish epidemic should be considered as a natural calamity and necessary help should be rendered to Kerala by the Central Government.

(iv) Need for early clearance to Rajasthan Government's proposal seeking financial assistance from IDA for improving water supply and sewerage in various cities of the State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan has always been facing acute shortage of pure drinking water. Ramgarh lake, which supplies water to Jaipur, has dried up and the water level in wells had gone down by 10 to 15 metres. As a result, the residents of the State capital living on upper floors of the buildings do not get water at all and those living on ground floor get water only for two hours in the entire day. In Jodhpur sometimes the people get water for one hour after three days. The situation in Kota, Bikaner, Udaipur and Alwar is no better.

Due to the rising population, industrialisation and transportation, the sewerage system of these six cities are also not working properly. In lack of adequate clearance and treatment, the cities are stinking and getting polluted. For improving the water supply and sewerage in these six cities of Rajasthan, the State Government had sent a proposal to the Central Government on 29-6-1990 for seeking financial assistance worth Rs. 514 crore and 60 lakh from IDA but it is still pending with the Centre.

I would request that immediate action should be taken to provide the desired loan from the World Bank for the above said scheme.

(v) Need to set up a sugar factory at Pupari in Sitamarhi district, Bihar

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been a long-standing demand for setting up of a sugar factory in Pupari block under the most backward district Sitamarhi in Bihar. Agitations were also held in this regard. The former Minister has already announced setting up of a sugar factory in Pupari and may be the Government has already conducted a survey in this regard. Due to lack of proper arrangements, the farmers of Pupari, Sursand, Parihar, Sonevarsa, Bazpatti and Runni Saidpur and Nanpur blocks of Sitamarhi district and Darbhanga district and Madhvapur, Benipatti and Jale blocks of Madhubani district crush sugarcane in a crusher. As a result, the entire crop of sugarcane is not crushed in time. Due to which, the sugarcane dries up in the field. Every year, the farmers had to incur heavy losses due to this and it dampens their morale.

Therefore, I would request the Government that in view of the public interest, a sugar factory in the Centre of all these blocks, i.e. at Pupari should be set up.

(vi) Need to provide special duty allowance to postal employees of North Eastern region as is being provided to Central Government employees in that region

[*English*]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards treatment meted out to Postal, Railway Mail Service and the Mail